

cellulosic flakes of the composite graduating from the longer flakes adjacent the first and second surfaces to shorter flakes at an intermediate location between the first and second surfaces.

169. (New) The product according to claim 168 wherein the shorter flakes and the longer flakes range from about 3/16 inch to about 3 inches in length.

170. (New) The product according to claim 168 wherein the shorter flakes and the longer flakes range from about 3/16 inch to about 1 1/2 inches in length.

171. (New) The product according to claim 168 wherein the longer and the shorter flakes are randomly oriented.

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B 172. (New) The product according to claim 171 wherein the longer and shorter flakes have an aspect ratio from about 2:1 to about 8:1.

173. (New) The product according to claim 171 wherein the longer and shorter flakes have an aspect ratio from about 2:1 to about 6:1.

174. (New) The product according to claim 168 wherein the longer and the shorter flakes are preferentially oriented in at least one direction.

175. (New) The product according to claim 174 wherein the aspect ratio of the largest flakes is from about 16:1 to about 20:1.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-167 are pending, and claims 1-92 and 96-167 are withdrawn from consideration. By this Amendment, applicants have requested entry of new claims 168-175. Support for new claims 168-175 can be found throughout the application, but more particularly can be found at, for example, on page 11, lines 3-20.

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.